

—President's Message

“An anniversary is a time to celebrate the joys of today, the memories of yesterday and the hopes of tomorrow.”

—Anonymous

Some moments in your personal life leave a lasting impact. For me, one was when I was six years old and attended my grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary. The event brought together people who shared a relationship with the happy couple and who represented different aspects of my grandparents' lives. Even at that young age, I was overwhelmed with a feeling of where I came from, as well as with excitement for my own future. Not being there would have been a significant loss for me.

Your professional life also has such special moments. We are now more than halfway into OSA's 100th-anniversary celebration, and many exciting and memorable events will be held in the final three months of 2016. I encourage you, wherever you are, to attend one of these events to share in this celebration—whether at the society's Centennial annual meeting at Frontiers in Optics next month in Rochester, N.Y., USA, at events in Wuhan, China, or Kanpur, India, or in numerous other places. We won't be seeing a moment like this any time soon.

One hundred years ago, a few optics professionals of the time started OSA. They couldn't have imagined what would grow from that beginning. The pace of optics innovation and its impact on our world, especially in the last few decades, have increased.

Not a day goes by that I don't marvel at the way optics has changed the way we think about living. We all know how our scientific community has enabled the internet to grow, along with social media and data centers. Furthermore, in this issue of *Optics & Photonics News*, we celebrate another milestone: the 25th anniversary of optical coherence tomography. I still get a kick out of getting an OCT scan at my eye exams. Whether in laser eye surgery, cancer diagnostics or other areas, the impact of our science on health and medicine will surely grow.

These technological wonders didn't happen by accident. They were produced by people, often working together over decades. And we love celebrating those people.

For example, at the CLEO conference this year, I had the distinct privilege and delight of presenting Robert Boyd with the Charles



Robert Boyd (left), Frances Townes and Alan Willner at CLEO 2016.

Hard Townes Award. Nobody who was there will ever forget how the late Townes' wife, Frances—who, like OSA, is 100 years old—stood on stage to help present Bob with the award named after her husband and Bob's thesis advisor.

Please join us this fall to continue celebrating this memorable year for OSA with your friends and colleagues.



OSA

Respectfully and warmly submitted,

*Alan Willner,
OSA President*